

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

23 May 1960

Dear Gordon:

Quite some time ago you raised a question with regard to statements in the public press concerning intercept and destruction of satellites. The Defense position is that there is no urgent requirement for a capability to intercept satellites. There is no clear indication that the Soviets are expending effort on reconnaissance satellites or on weapon-carrying satellites. Such reconnaissance would seem to offer little attraction to them, and the utility of an offensive satellite weapon in the near future is very questionable. It should be noted that until the Soviet satellite launching a few days ago, they had apparently not launched one for two years.

Although we are not presently concerned with the interception of satellites, we have embarked on studies to develop a capability to inspect satellites at close range in the interest of our own satellite operations.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Douglas

DEPUTY

Honorable Gordon Gray
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

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